Meeting of the Bd of Prison Commissioners
Oct. 14, 2008
For the record, I um Florence Jones - Crew

Dear Gov. Gibbons Chair of the Bd. of State Prison Commissioners; Commission Members Sec. of State Miller and Attorney General Masto:

Per the Mandatory Parole Release (MPR) Statute NRS 213.1215 an inmate shall/must be transferred to the custody of the Division of Parole and Probation (P & P) when he/she is within 12 months of their sentence expiration date. As such, the NDOC does NOT have jurisdiction to continue to hold those inmates and cause the Nevada Taxpayer to continue to pay the exorbitant costs of hard bed prison incarceration.

These MPR inmates are classified by the NDOC as MINIMUM CUSTODY. NDOC's AR521 states that a Minimum Custody inmate is NOT A THREAT TO SOCIETY.

The Bd. of Parole Commissioners uses the NDOC's security/custody classification in all instances except the MPR. Parole Board spokesperson David Smith says that the Parole Board must determine inmate by inmate if they are a threat to society-not following the NDOC custody/security level in this isolated instance and refusing to grant the MPR --forcing inmates to expire their sentence.

ALL NDOC CAMP INMATES AND MINIMUM SECURITY INMATES AT NV PRISONS approximately 3,000 inmates NOT CONVICTED OF VIOLENT CRIMES--INCLUDING NDOC inmate Terrell Durr minimum custody @ NV State Prison who has just been denied his MPR until expiration of sentence, make up this MRP classification of inmates.

AT A PUBLIC MEETING <u>NDOC DIRECTOR Howard Skolnik</u> said, we can't release all of these minimum inmates from camp on MPR -- "WHO WILL FIGHT THE WILDFIRES IN THE STATE OF NEVADA?"

The NDOC and the Parole Board seem to be in agreement about keeping the MPR inmates in hard prison beds until they expire their sentence and are returned to the taxpayers with no Parole and Probation support. This continues to create prison overcrowding.

During FY 2007-2008 the NDOC requested capital improvements--NEW PRISON CONSTRUCTION—of \$380 + million --ALREADY SPENT – this would not have been needed if the parole board had followed NRS 213.1215 when it became law.

For the FY 2009-2010 the NDOC has requested and has already gained approval from the Public Works Department now on the fast track to the 2009 legislative session for passage --89 requests for capital improvements----MORE NEW PRISON CONSTRUCTION—of \$400+ million. THESE NEW PRISON PROJECTS are NOT NEEDED IF THE NDOC AND THE PAROLE FOLLOW NRS 213.1215 MANDATORY PAROLE RELEASE.

IMMEDIATE TAXPAYER SAVINGS -- \$400,000,000 million no new prisons

TAXPAYER Cost: 12 mo. minimum custody inmate in a prison hard bed \$18,500 TAXPAYER Cost: 12 mo. minimum custody for same inmate in P & P \$1,800 Net taxpayer savings per inmate per year savings \$16,700 X 3,000 MPR inmates ADDITIONAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS-- \$ 50,100.000 million by following MPR

To transfer CUSTODY FROM MINIMUM PRISON HARD BED TO PAROLE AND PROBATION FOR LAST 12 MONTHS OF INCARCERATION.

PLUS THE TAXPAYERS ARE PROTECTED by having P & P oversight on INMATES RETURNING TO SOCIETY and inmates have a better chance to succeed in society.

NOTE: NDOC AND PAROLE BOARD COMMISSIONERS HAVE NOW REDUCED THE

12 MONTHS OF MPR TO ONLY 6 MONTHS BEFORE THE INMATE'S SENTENCE

EXPIRES ---- they claim this has been done TO ADJUST FOR THE GOOD

TIME INMATE CREDITS-- NRS 209 --THAT INCREASED INMATE GOOD TIME CREDIT

BY 50% FROM AB510 of the 2007 Legislative Session. SO THE NDOC & Parole

Board effectively REDUCED THE TIME AN INMATE IS ELIGIBLE FOR MPR before

expiration of sentence--from 12 mo to 6 mo. rather than add to the 12 month

period before expiration of an inmate's sentence any earned good time which

was the legislative intent.NO MATTER WHAT LAW THE LEGISLATURE PASSES DAVID SMITH OF THE PAROLE BOARD HAS LED A MOVEMENT TO MAKE INTERPRETATIONS TO THWART release of non violent inmates to the Parole & Probation Dept. under the MPR --NRS 213.1215 – wrongly against the law keeping inmates eligible for the legislator's plan of MPR in prison until expiration of their sentence causing the overcrowded prison population and SEVERE EXCESSIVE TAXPAYER COSTS IN TOUGH TIMES.

Note: The Parole & Probation Department is reporting huge vacancies—and there has been a cry of how can we manage this large group of MPR inmates??

1. This is a Public Safety Department issue—combine the Department of Corrections—the Parole Board and the Parole & Probation Department into once servicing unit with one DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAVETY to solve this problem—using their combined resources as needed to follow the NRS 213.1215 and stop as Sherm Frederick of the RI said in his column, "Burning the Taxpayers Money!"

- 2. Allow NDOC correctional staff to transfer to P & P with additional training as needed.
- 3. Hire and fill the P & P positions by advertising in NV and neighboring states.
- 4. Transfer money from NDOC budget to P & P to service this population of MPR which although not violent has many repeat offenders—With P & P oversight and support these inmates could be successfully integrated back into society as additional taxpayers.
- Use Casa Grande as transitional housing which was the original intent of the legislature -- to immediately house at least 800 of these MPR inmates to relieve our tax burden.

Please Gov. Gibbons as Chairman of the Board of Prison Commissioners and Governor of Nevada request and require the Board of Parole Commissioners execute their duty according to NRS 213.1215 and remove this overburdening population of inmates to the less costly CUSTODY of parole and supervision of the Division of Parole & Probation.

Further that this Bd. of Prison Commissioners compromised of constitutional elected officials, Gov., Sec. of State, and Attorney General issue a NV Bd. Of Prison Commissioners Memorandum demanding the Parole Board do what NRS 213.1215 requires and make a public statement to the media that, if the Parole Board Commissioners continue to NOT follow this Mandatory NV Law, the NV taxpayers will have to foot the excessive capital improvement bill in the FY 2009-2010 to the tune of \$400 + million—this is on top of the FY 2008-2009 when taxpayers already paid out \$380 + million!!

Respectfully,
Flo Jones BS MS --Retired NV Educator-Taxpayer-Las Vegas, NV 89134